

## **Atherton Housing Coalition**

May 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Widmer and Members of the City Council,

The Atherton Housing Coalition met to discuss the City Council agenda for May 17, 2023. Our feeling is the City Council should defer any consideration of Agenda Item No. 8 to a future meeting. There are too many issues and questions with the proposed criteria for Housing Opportunity Site Selection described in Agenda Item No. 8. In addition, we are concerned about several legal issues which may not have been thoroughly studied.

The Atherton Housing Coalition is opposed to changes in our zoning rules for private properties which would permit denser zoning on private properties in Atherton than what is currently allowed in the Atherton Municipal Code and Atherton General Plan. The City Council should stay focused on the strategy outlined in our self-certified Housing Element which distributes multi-family housing throughout the town utilizing ADUs and focuses zoning for multi-family housing on school sites and town-owned property.

We look forward to hearing the discussion of Agenda Item No. 9, which is a summary of the response to HCD. The City Council should focus its efforts on our response to HCD since the analysis it requested requires a great deal of work. Please review the Atherton Housing Element Project Milestone Schedule which is in the back of the package for Agenda Item No. 9. We would like to understand the process for a General Plan Amendment and confirm that enough time is being allocated for this effort based upon past experiences with General Plan Amendments which require a great deal of community input.

Staff should distribute several draft versions of the response letter to HCD so Atherton residents are given time to review and comment on the next letter to HCD.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Atherton Housing Coalition